UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1997/5
16 June 1997

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Working Group on Indigenous Populations
Fifteenth session
28 July-1 August 1997
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Note by the secretariat

1. The Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/163 of 21 December 1993, 49/214 of 23 December 1994 and 50/157 of 21 December 1995, all of which concern the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 50/157 on the programme of activities of the Decade, the Fund's Advisory Group was set up in April 1996, with the participation of indigenous public figures, to make recommendations relating to the Fund. The Advisory Group met for the second time from 16 to 18 April 1997 and adopted the following guidelines for project proposals and the Indigenous Fellowship Programme.

GUIDELINES FOR PROJECTS

Objectives of the Voluntary Fund

To support the Programme of Activities adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/157;

To provide assistance to projects and programmes advancing the goal of the International Decade: international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education, culture and health.

Who can apply

Indigenous peoples, communities and organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic and other similar institutions; organizations should be non-profit-making;

National committees for the Decade;

Intergovernmental organizations and Governments with proposals for joint or "partnership" projects in cooperation with indigenous peoples.

Main project areas

The programme of activities and objectives of the Decade, as well as the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as they relate to indigenous people;

Indigenous organizational structures and procedures and their strengthening through education, training and institution and capacity-building, bearing in mind the need to respect their relevant traditions;

Education and training in human and indigenous rights;

Information about indigenous peoples and the International Decade;

Communications and exchanges between the United Nations system and indigenous peoples and between indigenous peoples;

Fund-raising initiatives in furtherance of the objectives of the Decade.

Criteria for selection

Projects should be of direct benefit to indigenous people in all parts of the world;

Projects should be prepared by or in full consultation with indigenous people;

Projects will be considered taking into account gender balance;

Particular consideration will be given to projects from underdeveloped areas in different regions;

Projects will be approved in relevant areas including, in particular, those relating to the promotion, protection and implementation of human and indigenous rights.

Deadline and consideration of projects

Projects should be sent to the Secretariat before 15 February each year;

Applications for the Voluntary Fund will be considered annually in April.

Contributions of the Voluntary Fund

Contributions of the Voluntary Fund will not exceed US$ 50,000.

Applicants to the Voluntary Fund should submit the following information to the Fund

1. The project title.

2. Description of the main objective(s) of the project, and indication of how the project relates to one of the six main project areas.

3. A summary of the project, including information about how it will be implemented.

4. Information about the executing organization, including information about membership, past activities and projects, as well as relevant financial details. Information about any partner organizations.

5. The expected benefits for indigenous people, and the expected follow-up to the project.

6. The duration of the project, including information about each phase of the project.

7. The total costs of the project, including breakdown of proposed expenditures. The contribution requested from the Voluntary Fund. The other sources of funding. How the accounting of the project will be managed.

8. How the project be will evaluated. Are the results quantifiable?

GUIDELINES AND GENERAL CRITERIA PERTAINING TO THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES TO THE INDIGENOUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The individual candidate

1. Age should not be a limitation to participation in the fellowship programme, although preference should be given to candidates in the age-bracket 25-35 years.

2. Formal education should not be a limitation to participation in the fellowship programme given the socio-economic barriers confronted by many indigenous peoples that limit access to formal educational institutions.

3. Candidates should have ability and willingness to train other indigenous persons after the return to their respective communities/organizations.

4. Indigenous community background and links should be regarded as favourable.

5. The fellows should have a basic understanding of the English language.

The sponsoring organization/community

6. The overall goal of the Programme is to give indigenous peoples the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills in the field of international human rights in order to assist their organizations and communities in protecting and promoting the human rights of their people. Therefore, it is important that the candidate is proposed and nominated by an indigenous organization or community.

7. It is desirable that the sponsoring organization has a firm constituency or membership and that it is representative.

8. The selection of fellows should reflect a regional balance.

9. The general human rights situation in the respective regions/countries should be taken into consideration in the selection process.

10. In accordance with the general practice of the United Nations, selection of fellows should reflect a gender balance.

11. Selection of alternates: eight alternates should be selected in the event that any of the first four preferences will not be available for the fellowship period. Four alternates should be selected as first, second, third and fourth preferences in the event that any of the four first preferences will not be available. The remaining four alternates could be ungrouped.

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